

111TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. RES. 938

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the leaders of Congress and other legislative branch offices should work together to establish and implement a coordinated program for the reuse, recycling, and appropriate disposal of obsolete computers and other electronic equipment used by offices of the legislative branch.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOVEMBER 19, 2009

Mr. THOMPSON of California (for himself, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Mrs. BONO MACK, and Mr. BILBRAY) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on House Administration

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## RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the leaders of Congress and other legislative branch offices should work together to establish and implement a coordinated program for the reuse, recycling, and appropriate disposal of obsolete computers and other electronic equipment used by offices of the legislative branch.

Whereas electronic waste (or “e-waste”) that is generated from obsolete computers and other electronic equipment is rapidly becoming a serious concern to State and local governments;

Whereas e-waste is one of the fastest growing sectors in the solid waste stream;

Whereas the disposal of e-waste is essentially unregulated at the Federal level;

Whereas e-waste generated in the United States is most likely to be exported to developing countries;

Whereas the Government Accountability Office (GAO) has found that, “A substantial quantity [of exported used electronics] ends up in countries where the items are handled and disposed of in a manner that threatens human health and the environment”;

Whereas GAO has also found that “Federal agencies . . . are not required to track the ultimate destination of their donated or recycled e-waste” and therefore “have little assurance that their e-waste is ultimately disposed of in an environmentally responsible matter”;

Whereas the United States has a growing domestic e-waste disposal industry that employs hard-working Americans;

Whereas the United States owns and operates UNICOR, the trade name for Federal Prison Industries, Inc., which employs offenders incarcerated in correctional facilities under the Federal Bureau of Prisons;

Whereas UNICOR operates 8 e-waste recycling facilities in direct competition to privately owned and operated e-waste disposal facilities in the United States;

Whereas the Basel Action Network (BAN) has designed the e-Stewards Standard for Responsible Recycling and Reuse of Electronic Equipment, which forbids the export of e-waste to developing countries and the use of prison labor for recycling services; and

Whereas Congress should lead by example to address this growing problem: Now, therefore, be it

1       *Resolved*, That it is the sense of the House of Rep-  
2       resentatives that the leaders of the House of Representa-  
3       tives, the Senate, and other legislative branch offices  
4       should work together to establish and implement a coordi-  
5       nated program for the reuse, recycling, and appropriate  
6       disposal of obsolete computers and other electronic equip-  
7       ment used by offices of the legislative branch, using only  
8       those companies certified by accredited e-Stewards certifi-  
9       cation bodies to be in conformance with the requirements  
10      of the e-Stewards Standard for Responsible Recycling and  
11      Reuse of Electronic Equipment.

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